

JUSTIFICATION
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, NJ 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a Firm-Fixed Price (FFP) Delivery Order (DO) issued under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Government Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC), for the renewal of 1E brand Power & Patch Management Pack (PPMP), software licenses and the procurement of additional 1E PPMP licenses and maintenance. The period of performance for this effort will consist of a 12-month base period with one 12-month option period.
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Information Technology (OIT) Enterprise Infrastructure Engineering (EIE) has a need to renew 310,000 VA-owned 1E PPMP software licenses. In addition, VA requires the purchase of an additional 40,000 licenses and maintenance to ensure VA enterprise-wide coverage. The 12-month option period shall renew maintenance of the 310,000 VA-owned 1E PPMP software licenses and the additional 40,000 software license procured in the base period of this action. In 2009, as part of a hardware procurement to deploy Microsoft Systems Center Configuration Manager (SCCM), VA procured 1E licenses for a workstation energy monitoring and management application that is used within the SCCM. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, OIT EIE has deployed the 1E PPMP to a majority of its desktops. The purpose of this 1E PPMP software licenses and maintenance renewal is to provide VA a remote power-up and graceful power-down capability of computer workstations and increase the effectiveness of security patching. The software also provides an integrated capability that can be used for power saving scheduling and provides reporting on estimated savings. This software, in conjunction with SCCM, allows workstations to be powered down at the end of a workday, powered up, and patched, and enables remote software installations, followed by shut down. This permits remote installs or security scans to occur after normal duty hours while still saving energy. It also monitors energy usage, energy savings, and provides related reporting.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled "Only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized".
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Based on market research as mentioned in paragraph 8, limited competition is anticipated. There is currently no known replacement for this software product that could be integrated with SCCM

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without a complete set of redevelopment and testing, which can consume several Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) for an extended timeframe. This architecture includes a 1E brand centralized reporting mechanism (AFR Server) that all 310,000 clients report to daily. Likewise, the 310,000 1E PPMP Agents and the 1E AFR Server are part of the same, proprietary product suite and will not work with any other software product. Replacing the entire Workstation Power Management VA infrastructure is a high level of effort, Enterprise-level project that cannot be resourced at this time. The procurement of 40,000 additional licenses will meet the requirement of seamless integration into the existing environment. Power management, energy use and cost savings data is then presented in Web-based reports that are consumed by VA administrators and management and meet the reporting requirements of OPM and VA senior leadership. This architecture is integrated into VA's SCCM 2007 Enterprise systems management architecture. Only 1E, Inc. and its resellers can provide a seamless and compatible software solution that will integrate with VA's current architecture.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. It was determined however that limited competition is viable among resellers for this brand name item. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A), this justification and supporting documentation shall be posted with the solicitation to all NASA SEWP Groups. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and 16.505, this action will be synopsisized at award on the Federal Business Opportunities Page (FBO) and the justification will be made publicly available.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be competed. In accordance with FAR 17.207(d)(2), an informal analysis of the market shall be conducted prior to exercising the option to determine that the option price is most advantageous offer to the Government.

8. Market Research: Government technical experts conducted market research by reviewing other similar software. This market research is an ongoing process that has been updated as recently as November 2013. The other similar software reviewed included the SCCM 2007/CM2012/IBM TEM, Verdiem, Faronics Power Save and Adaptiva OneSite. Based on reviews of these products, it was determined that none of these products can meet the Government's interoperability and current 1E client architecture compatibility requirements. Additionally, the Government has made a significant investment in the 1E Power Management architecture and sees no benefit in a potential extensive Enterprise redesign effort as the 1E software meets VA's power management needs.

On October 2013, Government representatives conducted market research via NASA SEWP IV GWAC utilizing the manufacturer lookup tool to identify potential sources that can provide 1E PPMP software licenses. The manufacturer lookup tool yielded 11 resellers of 1E products. There is reasonable expectation that sufficient competition exists on NASA SEWP IV GWAC for 1E PPMP software licenses.

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9. Other Facts: The primary business drivers for the project are White House Executive Order (EO) 13423 Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management - January 24, 2007 and 13514 Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance – October 5, 2009, which deal with energy and environmental management requirements, including greenhouse gas management. These EOs impact all government organizations, including VA. VA has been planning for “green” initiatives to comply with the EOs. The use of PPMP will be instrumental in this regard and will help VA reduce its carbon footprint and energy costs for Information Technology (IT) systems. 1E PPMP delivers enterprise cost savings via energy conservation to comply with EO 13423 and 13514 for the “greening” of the VA IT environment.